Dear Parents/Caregivers,

**Clean Up Australia Day:**
Clean Up Australia Day was yesterday, but the official School clean up day was Friday. On Friday Energex organized a whole school clean up of the yard. Students were busy picking up any rubbish, tidying the leaves, sweeping, raking and many, many other tasks to make our school grounds look great.

**Thank You:**
..... to **Georgina Weire** for working with books – sorting book boxes, and helping Debbie with the mammoth task of putting Library books back on shelves (in the right order) after the floor was repaired.
..... to **Felicity and Elizabeth** for looking after the vegie patch. Have you seen the fruit trees there?

**Parents listening to children read in the classroom**
If you are interested in helping out with reading in the classroom then a book introduction session is being help on Wednesday 6th March at 2:30pm. We would like all parents who have offered to help to take part in the session.

**Introducing….**
**Michelle Day – Visual Arts teacher**
Michelle is an artist, who also teaches Visual Arts at Castlemaine North PS. She has quickly settled into the role here at Maldon, and already has displays of the students' work in passageways.
We are very fortunate to have Michelle on staff. Look out for her work and Bernadette's too, in the upcoming Castlemaine Festival.

**VALUE AWARDS for last week's value of Excellence:**

**Congratulations and well done to:**
**Harrison Walls** for showing great courage in the way he did ‘Share time’ last week. He spoke clearly and answered questions well. Top job!
**Silas Knighton-Weire** for working really hard to make your animal poster look great. Well done!
**Angus Macafee** for always striving to do his very best and being a positive role model for others in work habits and behaviour. Well done!
**Seamus Coakley** for trying for excellence in all areas, particularly in learning new computer skills. Well done!

**Silas, Phoenix, Angus, Seamus, Aja and birthday boy Forest (9)**
Principals’ Awards to:
Phoenix Ousley-Bonifacio for supporting two students who needed help with different things
Ethan Mott who suggested alternative ways of solving a problem in the playground

Active Sports Award
... to Aja Sewell for borrowing lots of equipment and bringing it back on time

ARTIST of the WEEK:
... Tayah Doyle – Self-Portrait
The Years 1 & 2 students painted a self-portrait after looking at themselves in the mirror. We also talked about the correct proportions of the face. The students also painted a border and decorated it with lines.

More Congratulations to:
• 1/2B for winning the Come-Along Cup two weeks in a row
• Staffroom for winning the Chook Award

With best wishes,
Jodie Mengler and Liz Grainger

COIL NEWS – Help needed

We are Energex. We have decided to paint the toilets a new colour. We are thinking of painting the Girls’ toilets purple and yellow and the Boys’ toilets blue and green. We need three parent helpers for this project. Please contact the principals Jodie or Liz, if you can help. From the Energex team: Ethan, Phoenix, Aaron and Dillon

HELP NEEDED: ART ROOM
We need some parents to make a set of new Art Smocks/aprons for the art room please. We have a pattern and all materials will be provided. So if you can sew and would like to help out please let Jodie or Liz know.
Also wanted clean meat trays, corks, bottle tops, in the art room

BASIC INDONESIAN FOR PARENTS
Dear Parents,
From 2:45 until 3:15 on Thursdays I am available for parents to develop their skills in Indonesian. The lessons will cover the basics that your child is currently studying in class.
This is a great way to gain an understanding of what your child is learning as well as being able to assist them in their development. If you are planning a holiday in Bali then this is one avenue to enhance your visit.
Please notify the office if you intend to take up this offer by registering your name.
Regards Peter

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL
All Maldon PS students will be participating in two workshops and a performance on Thursday, 21st March, 2013.

Workshop (A) – Children’s Choir with Jane Thompson and James Rigby – Castlemaine Town Hall.
Workshop (B) – Concrete Poetry with Mandy Field and Paul Allen – ‘The Shed’, rear of 14-16 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.

All students attending schools in the Mt Alexander Shire are invited to come along to the closing day of the Festival to join in the singing of the Goora song that we have learnt at school.

LIBRARY NEWS
The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is now in its 8th year and students across the whole school have an opportunity to participate in this wonderful event. The Challenge runs through until September and enables the students to experience a variety of texts and authors. The book list has been increased this year to give students a wider range of books to read.
Students will receive a signed certificate of achievement when they complete the Challenge, and will also have their names published in the Age Newspaper. A consent form can be found with today’s newsletter and must be signed by a parent/guardian. Please note that Section 2 is optional and can be signed if you would like your child’s name to appear on the Honour Roll in October.
Enjoy your reading!

Debbie O’Byrne
SPORTS NEWS
Announcing the formation of the ..........

“MALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS COMMITTEE”

Background Information:
Did you know that our school is a member of School Sport Victoria? School Sport Victoria (SSV) is the peak body for School Sport in Victoria. SSV is a sub-committee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
For children who have a talent in sport, SSV co-ordinated events can lead to State Finals and National sporting opportunities. If you would like further information their website is https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au.

Maldon Primary School
The levels of participation in SSV sports for Maldon Primary School are as follows...

  **District:** Castlemaine  
  **Division:** Campaspe  
  **Region:** Loddon Mallee  
  **State:** Victoria

Where to from here?
With consent from school staff, we are looking to create a Sports Committee to support Brett in his role as Health and Physical Education Co-ordinator for Maldon Primary School.

If you have a PASSION for sport and would like to be involved please contact Bec Hamilton on 0428 752445. Our aim will be to gather information and resources to support the Maldon Primary School’s Health and Physical Education Co-ordinator (Brett Harris).

Ideally we would like about 6 parents to get involved who could act as advocates for particular sports which may include 
  ....Athletics, Swimming, Tennis, Football, Netball, Soccer or anything else people may like to pursue!! **Have a look at the website and get involved!!!!**

Parents’ Club News

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
This week’s volunteers are: Felicity McGoldrick and Emily Girdwood
Next week’s volunteers are: Anita Mason and Kerry Oliver

EVENT CO-ORDINATORS
I would like to thank the following people, who have volunteered for the last two positions,  
Amy Atkinson - Bloke’s Breakfast  
Freya Clifford - Shopping Spree Fundraiser

GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY
A notice will be going home with the newsletter today, asking for any Parents / Guardians who are able to help make scones for a Devonshire afternoon tea, to be shared with our visitors on Grandparents and Special Friends day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Monday, 18th March, Meeting #2, 9.30 a.m., to be held in the LOTE Room that adjoins the Prep room, after assembly.
Monday, 25th March, Grandparents and Special Friends day, 2 – 3 p.m.
Monday, 1st April, Maldon Easter Parade. All students are invited to participate.

LOST PROPERTY
We have a food processor left at the school from last year. If it’s yours, please see the office next time you are in, or contact me on 0419 988 860.

CATCH UP AND COFFEE MORNING
Our catch up and coffee morning have recommenced!! This is a casual, informal drop in / catch up morning that we have at Maldon Café, every Monday after assembly, open to all parents and caregivers. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Felicity McGoldrick  
Parent Club President

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?
Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – **have you?**
If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via
your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions. Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/school kids bonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CASTLEMAINE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

The Program is still running at the same venue, and with the same staff. The only significant change to its operation is that, as of Term 2, 2013, the management role currently performed by a volunteer Committee of Management, will be taken over by the Bendigo YMCA, who have a lot of experience running after school and vacation care programs in this area. In Term 1, we will be going through a transition process, and there may be some minor changes to bring us into line with YMCA practices. As of January 30 this year we require all families to fill out a new YMCA enrolment form, which can be downloaded from their website (www.bendigo.ymca.org.au/programs and services/after school care) Completed forms should be lodged at the after school care building at Winters Flat Primary School. Parent information packs will shortly be available at our venue. Information and bookings - ring 0418 120 137.

Taradale Mineral Springs Festival
Sunday 10th March 2013 – 10am – 4pm

Mineral Springs Reserve, Taradale

Things just keep getting better for the Taradale Mineral Springs Festival, as it was awarded the Community Event of the region. The Festival is a true family event with something for everyone, including handcrafted local wines and produce including olives, oils, preserves, fresh berries, puddings and lots more. There will also be plenty of food to go with yum cha, pizza in a cone, pancakes and bbq delights among many. Entertainment includes live celtic, folk, rock and country music, whip cracking, vintage cars, 2-day art exhibition and a range of free children’s activities including face-painting, fairy games, miniature fire truck and jumping castle. BYO picnic blanket and basket to fill on Sunday 10 March at the Taradale Mineral Springs Festival. For event enquiries call Marg on 5423 2302.

AN INVITATION

The Maldon Hospital Social Support Team would like to invite the school Community to The Australian Poetry Concert of Noel Stallard. The concert will be held on Friday 22nd March at the Catholic Church Hall. The cost is $5 Adult $3 Child. We would love you all to enjoy the experience with us.

MALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL
SPORTS COMMITTEE

ENCOURAGES YOU TO SIGN UP!!!

GO TO......


and register your family to do

“30 minutes of physical activity per day for 30 days over this 6 week period”

Please nominate our school when you register to give us a chance to win up to $1,000 in Rebel Sports Vouchers.